

NEW MILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year

1949

Bailey Printers (New Mills) Ltd. Union Road, New Mills.
Phone: New Mills 2381


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New Mills Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1949

Medical Officer of Health :

F. COCKCROFT, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act
Inspector :

A. P. BATES, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN. I.

Meat Inspector :

A. P. BATES, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN. I.

Health Department,
Town Hall,
New Mills,
July, 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
NEW MILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the Public Health for 1949.

The death rate is higher than the previous year. This is partly due to the ageing population and the fact that the percentage of old people in New Mills is higher than many other districts. It is good to note that in spite of the high general death rate the infant mortality rate of 21.9 is well below that for the whole country.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their interest and help to the Health Department.

Section A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.

Area (in acres) 5, 242.

Registrar-General's estimate of residential population mid-year 1949: 8,424.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949)—2,777.

Rateable Value, £46,416.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £170 12s. 4d.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are textile weaving and calico printing, paper making, metal working and confectionery. A large part of the district is devoted to Agriculture especially in the neighbourhood of Rowarth. This hamlet is ideal for people requiring a restful holiday in delightful surroundings and is also a popular centre for climbers of the Kinder heights.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

LIVE BIRTHS				Total	...	M	...	F
Legitimate	...	...		132	...	74	...	58
Illegitimate	...	...		5	...	3	...	2

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (Mid 1949) 16.3

STILL BIRTHS				Total	...	M	...	F
Legitimate	...	...		2	...	0	...	2
Illegitimate	...	...		0	...	0	...	0

DEATHS				Total	...	M	...	F
Deaths at all ages	...			128	...	59	...	69

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 15.2

Comparability factor, 0.89.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes, 0.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 0.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	21.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			22.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...			0
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	13
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...			1

A comparison of the vital statistics with those of England and Wales is as follows :—

		Birth Rate		General Death Rate		Infantile Death Rate
England and Wales	...	16.7	...	11.7	...	32
New Mills	...	16.3	...	15.2	...	21.9

Section B—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratories of the Derbyshire County Council at Derby, and the Public Health Laboratory at Manchester.

2. Ambulance and personal health services are provided by the Derbyshire County Council.

3. No action was taken of the powers of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

4. A Health Week was arranged in the autumn to try and stimulate interest in the promotion of good health and cleanliness.

5. **RODENT CONTROL.** During the year the Council's sewers received periodic treatment for the extermination of rats, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommended method being employed.

Householders made greater use of the free rodent control service provided by the Council, but it is certain that many people still do not know that the extermination of rats and mice in private dwellings is a free service, and for this reason many infestations remain unnotified and untreated and a menace to other properties.

The following table shows the infestations dealt with during the year :—

	Reservoir Infestations	Major Infestations	Minor Infestations
Local Authority Properties	—	7	10
Business Premises	—	6	15
Private Dwellings	—	2	76

Section C—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

1 (a). The quality of the supply is kept under constant observation. Samples 9, 10 and 11 became polluted during the laying of new mains. Samples 29 and 30 were polluted during a breakdown in the chlorination plant. Apart from these occurrences the quality

of the main supply was satisfactory. The nature of Morlands reservoir is such that the quality was always doubtful although most of the samples were quite satisfactory. Chlorination takes a certain time in which to act and this is illustrated by some samples taken at the outlet to the filter house showing the presence of organisms whereas the houses supplied were completely wholesome.

(b). The quantity has been ample. Morlands reservoir has had to be supplemented with the main supply from Gow Hole.

The quality and quantity of the supply at Rowarth are unsatisfactory. The position will not be satisfactory until a wholesome piped supply is available.

2. There were 54 samples of water examined bacteriologically and 6 chemically. The results are given in detail.

3. Morlands Reservoir water was examined for plumbo-solvency and found satisfactory on one occasion. Shortly after the end of the year the water showed marked plumbo-solvent action. The Water Engineer arranged for the water to be diverted and the hard water from the main town supply pumped up into the reservoir. The pH value of the water is now tested daily.

4. It has been decided that Morlands water should be chlorinated and treated for plumbo-solvency before entering the mains.

Extra precautions have been arranged by the Water Engineer to prevent contamination during the laying of new mains and from breakdown at the filter houses.

5. The question of farms with their own supply of water, frequently highly polluted, is one which deserves much attention. Every farm requires a piped wholesome water supply in order to improve the cleanliness of farms and of the products produced there.

6. There are 2,777 dwelling houses in New Mills of which 2,650 are supplied from the public mains direct to the houses.

There are no stand pipes.

74 houses were connected to the Town's supply during 1949.

An extension of a 3 inch water main on Sitch Lane for 120 yards was made to supply Spring Vale Cottages.

The water main on Marsh Lane was extended by 1,135 yards to Carr View Cottages.

A 9 inch main from Lowleighton filter house to Highfield Estate was laid for the new houses.

WATER SAMPLES—BACTERIOLOGICAL.

No.	Date of Collection	Place of Collection	Supply	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml	Approx per cent Faecal
1	12/5/1949	153, Hayfield Road	Morlands	0	—
2	12/5/1949	Farmhouse, Mellor Road	Private	25	0
3	19/5/1949	Farmhouse, Mellor Road	Private	180+	100
4	19/5/1949	69, Thornsett	Morlands	2	0
5	19/5/1949	Town Hall	Ball Beard	0	—
6	27/6/1949	145, Hayfield Road	Morlands	0	—
7	27/6/1949	Cistern at Rowarth	Stream	180+	100
8	27/6/1949	Cistern in ground at Rowarth		35	100
9	4/8/1949	7, Victoria Street	Ball Beard	180+	100
10	4/8/1949	169, Hayfield Road	Morlands	180+	100
11	4/8/1949	Ajland, Hague Bar Road	Low leighton	3	30
12	10/8/1949	Outlet to Filters	Ball Beard	0	—
13	10/8/1949	Outlet to Filters	Low leighton	0	—
14	23/8/1949	4, Bank End	Ball Beard	0	—
15	23/8/1949	Morlands Reservoir	Morlands	0	—
16	23/8/1949	5, Victoria Street	Ball Beard	0	—
17	23/8/1949	Ajland, Hague Bar Road	Low leighton	0	—
18	23/8/1949	169, Hayfield Road	Morlands	0	—
19	30/8/1949	182, Hayfield Road	Morlands	0	—
20	30/8/1949	Axholm, Woodbourne Road	Stockport	0	—
21	30/8/1949	99, Thornsett	Morlands	0	—
22	30/8/1949	Hague Bar School	Low leighton	0	—
23	8/9/1949	Sycamore Inn	Morlands	1	0
24	8/9/1949	High Hill Farm	Morlands	0	—
25	8/9/1949	5, Victoria Street	Ball Beard	0	—
26	8/9/1949	Hague Bar Road	Low leighton	0	—
27	29/9/1949	Sycamore Inn	Morlands	0	—
28	29/9/1949	Beard Hall Farm	Shallow Well	180+	100
29	13/10/1949	20, Hibbert Street	Ball Beard	180+	100
30	13/10/1949	101, Thornsett	Morlands	1	100
31	13/10/1949	Hague Bar School	Low leighton	0	—
32	13/10/1949	147, Hayfield Road	Morlands	0	—
33	24/10/1949	The Grove Inn	Ball Beard	0	—
34	24/10/1949	Inlet to Filter	Ball Beard	180+	100
35	24/10/1949	Outlet to Filter	Ball Beard	5	100
36	24/10/1949	14, Hibbert Street	Ball Beard	0	—
37	16/11/1949	Outlet to Filter	Ball Beard	0	—
38	16/11/1949	30, Lowleighton Road	Ball Beard	0	—
39	16/11/1949	38, Wirksmoor Road	Low leighton	0	—
40	16/11/1949	31, Thornsett	Ball Beard	0	—
41	16/11/1949	45, Thornsett	Morlands	0	—
42	16/11/1949	Inlet to Filter	Ball Beard	180+	10
43	29/11/1949	186, Ravensleach	Morlands	0	—
44	29/11/1949	6, Wirksmoor Road	Low leighton	0	—
45	29/11/1949	45, Thornsett	Morlands	0	—
46	29/11/1949	Outlet to Filter	Ball Beard	0	—
47	29/11/1949	26, Lowleighton Road	Ball Beard	0	—
48	29/11/1949	Outlet to Filter	Low leighton	0	—
49	20/12/1949	65, Lowleighton Road	Ball Beard	0	—
50	20/12/1949	Lindhurst, Hayfield Road	Morlands	3	30
51	20/12/1949	8, Chapel Street	Ball Beard	0	0
52	20/12/1949	Hague Bar School	Low leighton	0	—
53	20/12/1949	26, Eaves Knoll Road	Ball Beard	0	—
54	20/12/1949	42, Wirksmoor Road	Low leighton	0	—

WATER SAMPLES—CHEMICAL.

Parts per 100,000

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Colour... ..	Colourless	Colourless	Colourless	Faintly Green	Brown	Faintly Green
Turbidity	Clear	Clear	Turbid	Slightly turbid	Turbid	Slightly turbid
pH	7.5	7.55	7.55	7.45	6.3	7.2
Solids	33.2	33.3	33	23.5	28.2	16.4
Saline Ammonia	—	—	—	—	0.001	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001	0.0011	0.0022	0.0016	0.04	0.0076
Chlorides (as Chlorine)	1.7	1.65	1.65	1.45	1.65	1.7
N ₂ as Nitrates	—	—	—	—	Faint	—
O ₂ absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F. ...	0.008	0.006	0.012	0.019	Trace	0.164
Hardness—Temporary	13	13	13	7.2	1	3.3
Permanent	11	11	10.5	7.4	7.9	6.2
Total	24	24	23.5	14.6	8.9	9.5
Iron	Less than 0.005	Less than 0.005	Less than 0.005	Less than 0.005	0.43	0.094
Zinc	—	—	—	—	—	0.094
Aluminium	—	—	—	—	—	0.002
Free Chlorine	0.02	0.09	Nil	Nil	—	—

A—Caretaker's House, Town Hall

B—Outlet to Filter House

C—Inlet to Filter House

D—69, Thornsett

E—Broadhurst Edge Farm

F—Grove Mill Paper Co.

Ball Beard Supply 5/5/1949

Ball Beard Supply 5/5/1949

Ball Beard Supply 5/5/1949

Morlands Supply 19/5/1949

Spring water supply 19/5/1949

Lowleighton Supply 13/12/1949

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

No alterations have taken place during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution is now the responsibility of the Mersey River Board.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Closets of each type remaining at the end of 1949 :—

Privy-middens	...	...	...	13
Water Closets	...	...	...	1,445
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	510
Pail Closets	...	...	...	36

KITCHEN WASTE.

No sterilisation is carried out by the Council. A local farmer collects and carries out sterilisation in an approved boiler.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	8	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	24	2	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	72	33	2	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the act	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	4	4	—	1	—

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 16 Bakehouses on the register—all of which were inspected during the year.

PUBLIC HOUSES.

The Licensed premises in the district received inspection during the year and extensive alterations to the sanitary accommodation were completed at one public house.

The owners of four other public houses were requested to carry out alterations but these had not progressed far by the end of the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Smoke observations were taken at two large mills and the management of each communicated with. One mill installed automatic stokers and economisers which proved very effective in the prevention of excessive smoke emission. The other mill was already fitted with modern equipment and the main cause of the smoke emission appeared to be the use of unsuitable fuel and careless stoking. No statutory action was taken in regard to smoke nuisances.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

No action was taken under this Act.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Council did not re-register the Common Lodging House at the end of 1949, owing to its unsuitability from a sanitary aspect.

SHOPS.

The Council have delegated powers under the Shops Acts. 30 inspections were made and in no case was it necessary to serve notice for contravention of the Acts.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Three cases of bed bug infestation were dealt with—the treatment being that of spraying with a proprietary brand of insecticide.

A number of cases of flea infestations occurred and these were treated with D. D. T. powder. One block of four flats which was flea infested did not respond to this treatment and fumigation with hydrogen cyanic gas was necessary.

SCHOOLS.

The schools of the district were inspected and found to be under standard so far as sanitary accommodation and hand washing facilities were concerned. The Derbyshire Education Committee have agreed to carry out necessary urgent improvements in respect of the County Schools and the Church Schools' Managers have also been requested to give attention to the sanitary accommodation.

NUISANCES—ACTION TAKEN AND RESULTS.

Sanitary Inspections	1,619
Statutory Notices Served	13
Informal Notices Served	118

	Number of Notices Served		No. of Nuisances abated with or without Notice
	Informal	Legal	
CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—			
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits			
Conversions of Privies into W.C.'s			
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s			
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets			
Defective Water Closets ...	8	—	8
Provision of Additional Water Closets	9	—	6
Provision of Portable Ashbins	2	—	167
Dirty Closets			
DRAINAGE—			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe.			
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets and Drains	14	—	14
Drains Obstructed	17	—	17
OTHER DEFECTS—			
Paving of Courts and Yards...	—	—	—
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-spouts	6	—	8
Sinks	2	—	2
Insufficient Ventilation ...			
Windows	2	—	12
Dampness	3	—	—
Water in Cellars	—	—	—
Water Supply	3	—	2
Overcrowding			
Verminous Premises and Foul Condition of Houses ...	2	—	2
Offensive Accumulations ...	2	—	2
Animals improperly kept ...	—	—	—
Pigsties	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	3	—	1
Urinals	1	—	1
Nuisances not specified above	40	13	20
Rodent Control			
Totals	114	13	263

	Number on Register	Inspections Made	Notices Served	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops as at 30th September, 1949.	56	60	1	1
Bakehouses ...	16	19	1	1
Knackers Yard and Slaughterhouses	1	144	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging houses ...	1	14	2	2
Totals	74	237	4	4

Section D—Housing.

60 Council houses have been completed during the year, and three were completed by private enterprise, two of the latter being rebuilt bomb damaged houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1936—SECTION 11.

The Council dealt with eight houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act. An appeal to the County Court by the owner of one house failed.

HOUSING ACT, 1936—SECTION 12.

Three notices were served in cases where only part of a dwelling was unfit for human habitation.

Section E—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

CLEANLINESS AND SAFETY OF MILK SUPPLIES.

During the year new Regulations were introduced whereby the control of production on the farms became the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries—the supervision of dairies remaining under the care of the Council.

Details are shown in the table below of the milk sampling carried out. In all cases where unsatisfactory milk samples were obtained, the persons responsible were contacted and the methods employed in the production and handling of the milk reviewed. It will be noted that in one case a retailer of milk was found to be selling milk containing tubercle bacilli. This supply was immediately diverted for heat treatment until the affected cow was traced and slaughtered.

The unsatisfactory phosphatase test was in respect of milk sold as pasteurised but found on sampling to be raw milk.

NATURE OF TEST :								
	Methylene Blue (Samples reported upon : 51)		Coliform Test (Samples reported upon : 30)		Tubercle Bacilli (Samples reported upon : 34)		Phosphatase Test (Samples reported upon : 9)	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Raw Milk	20	22	18	12	33	1	8	1
Pasteurised...	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

ICE CREAM.

40 samples of Ice Cream were taken and graded as follows :—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
11	15	7	7

One sample of Ice Cream powder was classed as satisfactory.

During the year increased sugar and fats were made available to those ice cream manufacturers prepared to give an undertaking that their ice cream would have a minimum fat content of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$; and in order to avoid duplication of sampling and returns, an arrangement was made with the County Sampling Officer to take the fat content samples in the district.

Eight samples were taken and were reported upon as follows :—

JUNE		SEPTEMBER	
4 Samples	5.8% Fat	4 Samples	4.5% Fat
	2.9% Fat		4.1% Fat
	1.7% Fat		6.6% Fat
	6.3% Fat		5.4% Fat

CATERING LICENCES.

By an arrangement with the Food Executive Officer, all premises for which catering licences are sought are first inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and licences are not granted where there is an adverse report. This is a very useful and helpful arrangement.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is a Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Urban District where the slaughtering takes place for the Borough of Buxton, the Urban Districts of New Mills and Whaley Bridge and the Rural

Districts of Disley and Chapel-en-le-Frith. All cattle and sheep slaughtered and intended for distribution in New Mills are now inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who took over the duties of meat inspector in May.

Five cases of *cysticercus bovis* were discovered in the carcasses slaughtered for the New Mills area, the details of each case being sent to the Ministry of Food in accordance with their instructions.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	163	250	32	1,085	—
Number inspected	163	250	32	1,085	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	3	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	62	—	48	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	9.8%	24.8%	—	4 7%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	7	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	142	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	19%	59 6%	—	—	—

The above figures relate only to eight months of the year, i.e. May to December.

SAMPLING UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 1949, 45 samples, including 22 milks were taken under the above Act.

Two samples of milk contained small amounts of added water and the vendors were cautioned. The remaining samples were genuine.

One informal sample of salad cream, deficient in oil, was followed by a formal sample, which on analysis was found to be genuine.

One sample of ice cream was found to be deficient in fat. In the absence of a statutory standard, no proceedings were taken but the results, along with those for other samples taken during the year, were included in a separate report to the Ministry of Food.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Food forming a total weight of 6¼ cwts. was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Section F—Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever continued to be mild in character. Of the three cases occurring, one case was removed to Hospital.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles is carried out by formalin fumigation.

An epidemic of measles broke out in February and March involving 180 children.

Vaccinations and immunisations are carried out by local practitioners. Diphtheria immunisations are also performed at High Lea Hall Clinic by a Medical Officer of the County Council.

FOOD POISONING.

No. of Outbreaks	...	...	0
No. of Cases	...	...	0
No. of Deaths	...	...	0

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS OF DIPHTHERIA FROM 1913 to 1949

Year	No. of Cases	Year	No. of Cases
1913	3	1931	7
1914	20	1932	4
1915	10	1933	10
1916	2	1934	10
1917	0	1935	10
1918	0	1936	6
1919	51	1937	72
1920	57	1938	44 X
1921	50	1939	7
1922	16	1940	8
1923	18	1941	1
1924	16	1942	3
1925	8	1943	0
1926	10	1944	1
1927	9	1945	4
1928	11	1946	0
1929	3	1947	2
1930	1	1948	1
		1949	0

X Immunisations commenced

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1949**

Disease	No. of Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—
Measles	184	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—

**CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES DURING
1949.**

Disease	Under 1 year	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
Scarlet Fever				1				1			3x
Diphtheria											—
Puerperal Pyrexia							1				1
Pneumonia		1							1	1	3
Measles	4	33	54	89	2	1			1		184
Whooping Cough		5	4	2	2						13
Cerebro Spinal Fever											—

X In one case of Scarlet Fever the age of the person is unknown.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1											
5											
15											
25					1			1			
35											
45								2			
55											
65 and over ..											
Totals					1			3			

There were no non-notified tuberculosis deaths.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
F. COCKCROFT,
Medical Officer of Health.

